

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 6 remain active in this Application.

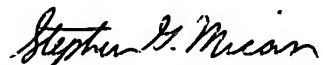
The Examiner has objected to the corrected drawings filed on 28 October 2003. In particular, the Examiner has objected to the drawings under 35 USC § 132 for alleged introduction of new matter. The Amendment filed on 28 October 2003 has been objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 132 for alleged introduction of new matter. Claims 1 through 6 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, for alleged failure to comply with the written description requirement.

The Applicants traverse the objection to the drawings for the reasons set forth in the Applicant's response of 28 October 2003. With respect to the objection to the Amendment filed on 28 October 2003 and the rejection of Claims 1 through 6 under 35 USC § 112, the Applicants have merely disclaimed the use of the claimed invention in pairs in a bevelled gearing arrangement. The primary use of the invention, as described in the originally filed specification with the exception of the bevel gearing arrangement described in a single paragraph on page 6, lines 8 through 12 of the originally filed specification and now disclaimed, is for a conventional gear drive with a single bearing float and preload adjustment and seal carrier about a protruding drive shaft.

Although not specifically set forth in the specification, a gear drive of this type by its nature has a drive shaft in fixed axial alignment with the gear drive housing, as would be apparent to those skilled in the art. Nevertheless, the Applicants have simultaneously filed with this Response a Continuation-In-Part Application that reflects the invention as set forth in the Application of record.

In view of the response to the Examiner's objections to the drawings and Amendment of record and the rejection of the pending Claims, the Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the drawings and to the Amendment filed 28 October 2003, as well as the rejection of Claims 1 through 6 under 35 USC § 112, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen G. Mican".

Stephen G. Mican

Attorney for the Applicants

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